

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 EB-07 AID-05

TRSE-00 OES-05 FEA-01 CIEP-02 ACDA-10 EUR-12 AF-06

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R 300725Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8394

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 1792

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5748

BEIRUT PASS THIS MSG TO USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN XF CH UR PK

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ON THE WORLD; INTERVIEW WITH
LEBANESE JOURNALIST

1. IN A LONG INTERVIEW WITH A LEBANESE JOURNALIST
APRIL 8 (NAME AND AFFILIATION NOT SPECIFIED), PRIME
MINISTER GANDHI COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS,
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EXCERPTS QUOTED BELOW:

2. INDO-ARAB RELATIONS: "SINCE 1949, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THEM IN THEIR DISPUTES, SPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL. WE HAVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ALSO WITH MANY ARAB COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH WE WERE ALL IN THE DEVELOPING BLOOC, NOW SOME ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE SUDDENLY...MOVED IN A DIFFERENT SPHERE AND ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT DEVELOPED, CERTAINLY THEY CANNOT BE TERMED POOR NATIONS. IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THIS SITUATION TO STRENGTHEN THE RE-

LATIONSHIP BECAUSE SOMEHOW IN ANY SITUATION, THE AFLUENT COUNTRIES TRY TO DERIVE THE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE....WE FEEL THAT THE ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL AWARENESS OF THE BURDEN WHICH HAS SUDDENLY BEEN IMPOSED ON A COUNTRY LIKE INDIA BY THE HIGH OIL PRICES. WE FULLY SUPPORTED THE INCREASE IN PRICE BECAUSE WE REALIZED THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAD BEEN EXPLOITED AND THE OIL COMPANIES HAD MADE HUGE PROFITS AT THEIR COST. BUT NEVERTHELESS WE CANNOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT IT HAS IMPOSED A VERY HEAVY BURDEN ON US AND UPSET OUR ENTIRE ECONOMY. OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES HAVE SUFFERED A SERIOUS SETBACK...WE THINK THAT SPECIAL FORMSOF ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE DEVISED TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE UN CONFERENCE AS THE MSA AND THESE PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE ACTIVATED QUICKLY. AS I SAID, LARGEY THE PETRO- DOLLARS ARE FLOWING WESTWARDS BUT AT LEAST SOME OF THEM SHOULD BE DIVERTED FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPMENT COUNTRIES. WE HAVEBEEN AGAINST MILITARY BLOCS AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND NOW WE FEEL EQUALY STRONGLY ABOUT ECONOMIC BLOCS. WE THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NEW APPROACH TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS BECAUSE WE FOUND THAT THE WAY IN WHICH ECONOMIC MATTERS WERE HANDLED AND THE GLOBAL STRATEGY OF SOME OF THE AFFLUENT NATIONS THAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE WORLD....THE ONLY WAY IS GREATER ECONOMICCOOPERATION,SPECIALLY BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IF WE CAN MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD, THEN WE CAN GET MUCH MORE HELP FROM THE DEVELOPEDCOUNTRIES. I SINERELY HOPE THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES WILL CONSIDER THESE PROBLEMS IN THE LARGER PERSPECTIVE."

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3. PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: "WE HAD HOPED THAT THE STEP- BY-STEP APPROACH TO PEACE WOULD WORK, ALTHOUGH QUITE HONESTLY WE HAD OUR MISGIVINGS ALSO. NOW IT SEEMS WE ARE BACK TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH WE HAD ADVOCATED ALL ALONG...I KNOW THAT THE ARABS HAVE MADE SINCERE GESTURES AND I SINERELY HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID WAR. WITH REGARD TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, INDIA HAS ALWAYS

APPRECIATED AND SUPPORTED THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN HEARTHS AND HOMES AND RECENTLY THE PLO HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN INDIA." (THE PROBLEM OF A PALESTINIAN STATE), "IT IS A TRICKY PROBLEM, ISN'T IT? THEY HAVE TO HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE IN. BUT HOW IT IS DONE NEEDS A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT."

4. CHINA: "...I THINK THE SITUATION HAS SOFTENED SOMEWHAT AND WE SINCERELY WANT FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES....

THERE ARE MORE CONTRACTS NOW. FOR INSTANCE, FORMERLY THEY DID NOT COME TO ANY OF OUR FUNCTIONS. NOW THEY DO, BOTH IN INDIA AND IN OTHER WORLD CAPITALS. AND RECENTLY, WE HAD THE TABLE TENNIS TEAM."

5. INDO-US/INDO-SOVIET: "OUR RELATIONS ARE GOOD. IN THE WAY OF CREDITS, THE US HAS HELPED US MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOVIET UNION HAS HELPED US TO DEVELOP OUR INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE HEAVY MACHINE-BUILDING INDUSTRY WHICH WE CONSIDER ESSENTIAL TO MAKE US MORE SELF-RELIANT. IN CERTAIN VERY DIFFICULT PERIODS, ALSO, SOVIET UNION HAS STOOD BY US AND WE VALUE THEIR FRIENDSHIP. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE DEPENDENT ON THEM, OR THAT THEY INFLUENCE OUR POLICY IN ANY WAY, NOR DOES FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION COME IN THE WAY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY."

6. PAKISTAN: "I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE PEACE AND COOPERATION...EVERY TIME IT SEEMED AS IF THERE WAS A DEADLOCK, WE CAME OUT WITH A NEW SOLUTION SO THAT THINGS WOULD NOT STOP. NOW THESE MEETINGS ARE CONTINUING. OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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TEAMS ARE GOING TO ISLAMABAD; THEIR TEAMS ARE COMING HERE. THERE HAS BEEN A TRADE AGREEMENT, AN AGREEMENT ON TELE-COMMUNICATION AND THERE HAVE BEEN TALKS ON SHIPPING AND SO ON. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, THEY MAKE VERY AGGRESSIVE AND BELICOSE SPEECHES ALSO. WE ARE NOT LETTING THAT INTERFERE THOUGH."SAXBE

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